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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 20. Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 32nd meeting, on 24 June 1996, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 20, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed their support for the activicies of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the general thrust of the proposed programme 20.

3. Several delegations emphasized the importance of coordination of activities of the Department with those of relevant specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian assistance activities in order to avoid overlap and duplication.

4. Some delegations stressed the importance of activities related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the need to ensure that those activities were not duplicated elsewhere in the Department.

5. Some delegations were of the view that the early warning capacity of the Department should be expanded to cover environmental emergencies, including nuclear-energy-related emergencies.

6. One delegation, which expressed strong support for the Department, also expressed concern that it was incorporating several new activities into its work plan without indicating how they would be financed. The delegation requested clarification of how the following new activities would be funded: (a) development and distribution of teaching materials for mine-awareness education programmes (para. 20.4 (e)); (b) promotion of the development of new technologies for mine-clearance operations (ibid.); (c) development of a strategy and operations plan for system-wide training, to include a training programme for complex emergency coordination staff at the Headquarters and field levels (para. 20.6 (d)); and (d) development of an environmental emergency service (para. 20.12 (c)). The delegation also asked for a clarification of the advocacy role of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (para. 20.14 (b)).

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 20 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.